IN THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the claims as they currently stand is provided below.

1-6.   (Canceled).

7.   (Previously presented) A method for providing access control to a web server, the method comprising:

    providing a plurality of machines pre-authorized to access the web server;

    associating with each pre-authorized machine an access table storing authorization information;

    coupling one of the pre-authorized machines to an access requester;

    verifying that said requester is authorized to access a resource on the web server with reference to said access table associated with the pre-authorized machine to which the requester is coupled; and

    allowing the requester to assume the identity of said pre-authorized machine to which the requester is coupled after verifying that said requester is authorized, and

    based on the requester assuming the identity of said pre-authorized machine, allowing the requester access to the resource.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of pre-authorized machines includes a first pre-authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a first subset of resources at the web server and a second authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a second subset of resources at the web server, wherein said second subset differs from said first subset.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said plurality of pre-authorized machines includes a first pre-authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a first subset of resources at the web server and a second pre-

authorized machine that is pre-authorized to access a second subset of resources at the web server, wherein said second subset overlaps with said first subset.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein said first and second subsets are identical.

11-18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) A network element, comprising:

a processor;

an authorization database containing logic for execution by the processor, the processor to determine, based on the logic, whether a user is authorized to assume the identity of the network element to gain access to a network resource that the network element is pre-authorized to access;

a port to couple the network element to a user; and

a port to couple the network element to a network resource.

20. (Previously presented) The network element of claim 19, wherein the authorization database correlates user identifiers with resources accessible via the network element.

21. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

arranging a network element in a network, the network element being pre-authorized to access a set of network resources;

receiving, at the network element, a request from a user to connect to the network element;

determining whether the user is authorized to connect to the network element;

if so, allowing the user to assume the identity of the network element; and

accessing, by the user, one of the set of network resources that the network

element is pre-authorized to access, based on the user's assuming the identity of the network element.

22.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the network element is coupled to one or more network servers providing the set of network resources.

23.   (Previously presented The method of claim 21, further comprising checking an identity characteristic of the user to determine whether the user is authorized to connect to the network element.